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10/617,807

07/14/2003

Shao-Chueh Hu

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7590

08/23/2006

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EXAMINER

GOMA, TAWFIK A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/617,807 | Applicant(s) HU, SHAO-CHUEH | |
| | Examiner Tawfik Goma | Art Unit 2627 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment filed on 5/24/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-11, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Packer (US 6058453).

Regarding claim 1, Packer discloses a method for reading a coded audio data file in an optical storage medium and buffering the audio data file to a buffer memory (518, fig. 5a and fig. 6b)), said audio data file comprising a plurality of blocks which are stored sequentially in a plurality of storing units in said optical storage medium (fig. 1c), each block divided into a subcode block and a corresponding main data block (fig. 1c and fig. 2), said subcode block comprising a plurality of coded subcodes (122, fig. 1c and col. 2 lines 36-39) , said subcodes comprising an address for each corresponding block (col. 2 lines 40-52) , said main data block correspondingly comprising said coded audio data (col. 5 lines 43-49), the method comprising following steps: (a) designating a starting block where buffering starts, decoding via a subcode decoding procedure to obtain said subcodes in said subcode block, and searching for said starting block in said blocks in said optical storage medium (col. 6 lines 8-25); (b) when said starting block is searched, triggering a main data decoding procedure to correspondingly

decode said starting block and said main data blocks in later blocks (col. 6 lines 26-37 and fig. 3), then sequentially buffering decoded audio data respectively in a plurality of corresponding buffer units in said buffer memory after performing decoding (518, 516, fig. 5a); and (c) according to the timing when said main data decoding procedure is triggered, deciding the timing when said decoded subcodes should be buffered to said buffer memory (col. 6 lines 8-25), in order that said subcodes and corresponding audio data which belong to the same block before decoding can be buffered to the same buffer unit after respectively decoded (fig. 5c, fig. 5d and col. 8 lines 65-67 thru col. 9 lines 1-24); wherein the timing of said corresponding audio data buffered to said buffer memory lags behind the timing of said subcode buffered to the buffer memory by at least one block (fig. 3)

Regarding claim 2, Packer further discloses wherein in the step (b), after said starting block is searched, a matching flag will be emitted to a subcode buffer controller and a main data buffer controller, so as to respectively trigger the later subcode decoding procedure of said subcode buffer controller and trigger said main data decoding procedure of said main data buffer controller (figs. 5b, 5c, fig. 6a and col. 8 lines 10-25 and col. 9 lines 1-13).

Regarding claim 3 Packer further discloses wherein at least one block is distanced between where said main data buffer controller receives said matching flag and where said main data buffer controller triggers said main data decoding procedure; the number of said distanced blocks is decided by the timing of triggering said main data decoding procedure (fig. 3, fig. 5c and col. 8 lines 46-65).

Regarding claim 4, Packer discloses wherein said starting block is searched by an address control unit, and said address control unit also emits said matching flag after searching for said starting block (505, fig. 5a).

Regarding claim 5, Packer further discloses wherein said buffer memory comprises said buffer unit to correspondingly store said decoded subcodes and audio data (504a, 504b and 518 fig. 5a).

Regarding claim 6, Packer further discloses wherein each of said buffer unit comprises a subcode unit and a main data unit; both said subcode unit and said main data unit are used to respectively store the decoded subcodes and audio data (fig. 5c).

Regarding claim 7, Packer further discloses wherein said buffer memory can be DRAM (col. 7 line 50).

Regarding claim 8, Packer further discloses wherein an optical storage device proceeds said method; said optical storage device connects to a computer host and receives a reading command from said computer host to proceed said method (522, fig. 5a and fig. 7).

Regarding claim 9, Packer further discloses wherein the block which said reading command asks to read is defined as a target block, and said address control unit can decide the starting block via a starting block deciding procedure (col. 6 lines 51-65).

Regarding claim 10, Packer discloses wherein the optical storage device first executes a reading and buffering procedures to check the number of blocks between the subcodes and their corresponding audio data stored in the buffer units as compared to their location on the optical disc (fig. 6b), and then the optical storage device counts

the number counts of blocks back from the target block every time when reading said optical storage medium to decide the starting block (fig. 5b).

Regarding claims 11, claim 11 is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 4 above. Packer further discloses a subcode buffer controller and a main data buffer controller (516, fig. 5).

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 13, claim 13 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 2 above.

Regarding claim 14, claim 14 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 15, claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 5 above.

Regarding claim 16, claim 16 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 17, claim 15 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 8 above.

Regarding claim 18, claim 18 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9 above.

Regarding claim 19, claim 19 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10 above.

Regarding claim 20, Ado further discloses a compact disc medium with digital audio format (fig. 4(C)).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 and 13-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tawfik Goma whose telephone number is (571) 272-4206. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


T. Goma
8/16/2006


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